

## Editorial

The landsnails are rather considered to be a minor group of shells by a considerable number of amateur malacologists, especially if these molluscs live in Europe. Exceptions are those exotic snails with a spectacular form (*Papustyla*, *Acavus*, *Papuina*, *Rhiostoma*), a large size (*Achatina*, *Ryssota*), an exceptional colour (*Liguus*, *Amphidromus*, *Helicostyla*), or those which are known for their scarcity or/and their endemism (*Polymita*, *Tropidophora*).

And what about the freshwater ones? Few people seem to be interested. So, there is a "Compendium of Seashells", there is even a "Compendium of Landsnails" but not any "Compendium of Freshwater Shells"...

And yet...

And yet, the study of landsnails and freshwater shells is, for those who are devoted to them, a source of real pleasure.

A pleasure, because even common species can be wonderful by their colour variations, for instance, the variation of the stripes in European *Cepaea*.

A pleasure, because their classification is far from being easy and that those who appreciate the classification problems (and their solutions) will be delighted.

A pleasure, because the field researches are accessible to most of us, living near the sea or not: one can search in woods, under stones, in ponds or rivers... and discoveries are really easy (see in this issue). It is also an ideal way to awake and to stimulate the children's interest for their environment.

A pleasure, because the nature of the grounds influences the type of discovered species and recalls us that a calcareous ground is quite different from an acid ground..

A pleasure, because the justification of a genus, a fortiori of a species, can often be done only while studying the anatomy (external and internal) of the animal himself. What to remember that a mollusc is not only a shell but an already biologically complex being.

This issue of Novapex, if it includes, as usual, many original articles concerning marine molluscs with the description of a few new species, somewhat renders justice to the forgotten people, somewhat neglected from cones or cowries collections. For instance, two specialists describe a new landsnail from Africa while members of the Belgian Malacological Society tell us about the discoveries randomly their peregrinations in Belgium or Ireland. What to remember us that an accomplished malacologist is probably also a naturalist who understands his ambient terrestrial environment.

And when we understand, we can defend and protect much more easily.

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